

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 012111Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0697

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PINT ELAB PP UR

SUBJ: SOVIET OFFER TO ASSIST PNG LABOR MOVEMENT VIA WORLD
FEDERATION TRADE UNIONS AND SOVIET TU COUNCIL

1. SOVIET COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS HAS OFFERED FUNDS TO
PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS TO ESTABLISH A UNION
ACTIVITY CENTER IN PORT MORESBY. MAY 20 POLOFF, IN
DISCUSSION WITH PRINCIPAL RESEARCH OFFICER FOR MINISTER
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SIR MAORI KIKI, WAS INFORMED THAT KIKI IN
HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE
UNIONS WAS SEEKING FUNDS TO ESTABLISH SUCH A CENTER IN
PORT MORESBY AND THAT SOVIETS HAS OFFERED TO ASSIST.

2. POLOFF WAS INFORMED THAT JOHN KOSI (A PNG NATIONAL),
THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PORT MORESBY COUNCIL
OF TRADE UNIONS, VISITED THE USSR DURING FEB AND MARCH 77
ONA GRANT PROVIDED BY THE WORLD FEDERATION OF
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TRADE UNIONS. WHILE IN MOSCOW HE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF
SOVIET TRADE UNIONS, OLEG KHARMALOV. KOSI INDICATED TO
KHARMALOV THAT THE PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
WAS SEEKING APPROXIMATELY A\$ 250,000 TO ESTABLISH IN
PORT MORESBY A UNION ACTIVITY CENTER. KHARMALOV
STATED THAT THE USSR ROUTINELY ASSISTED DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES IN SUCH ACTIVITIES BUT THE PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS SHOULD FORMALLY REQUEST A SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION TO COME TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. THE SOVIET TU DELEGATION WOULD LOOK INTO THE SITUATION, CONDUCT A SURVEY AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE CENTRAL SOVIET TU COUNCIL. KHARMALOV, WHILE ASSURING THAT FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE, INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE TO BE SATISFIED REGARDING THE PROJECT WOULD BE THE SOVIET TU DELEGATION.

3. PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS SENT SUCH A REQUEST IN MARCH WHEN ANOTHER PNG NATIONAL, KOAE SALE, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WATERSIDE WORKERS UNION, ALSO VISITED MOSCOW TO ATTEND SOVIET UNION TU CONGRESS. AS A CONSEQUENCE THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO SEND A TU DELEGATION TO PNG IN OCTOBER 1977. NO SOVIET FUNDS HAVE YET BEEN PROVIDED TO THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA TRADE UNION MOVEMENT; HOWEVER, ONE OTHER GRANTEE FROM THE WATERSIDE WORKERS UNION, MR. LAKI AYAWA, VISITED MOSCOW IN 1975, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND UPON HIS RETURN TO PNG LEFT THE WATERSIDE WORKERS UNION AND STARTED THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, WHICH NOW HAS SOME 50-100 MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY ATTACHE' WERE UNAWARE OF SOVIET OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS AND FELT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUCH AN OFFER WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE. WE ARE ASSURED THAT IN FACT

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THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN MADE. THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THE MISSION HAS RECEIVED OF A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART ANY GROUP IN PNG TO ACCEPT SOVIET ASSISTANCE. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS RE RELATED DEVELOPMENTS.

5. CONVERSATIONS AT DELHI LABOR CONFERENCE MAKE US BELIEVE ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR, DEPT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-CIO, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS DEVELOPMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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